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Remarks

The Office Action mailed July 26, 2006 allowed claims 1-12 and 14-17, rejected claims 18-20, and objected to claim 21. The Applicant gratefully acknowledges this indication of allowable claims.

Independent claim 18 has been amended above to generally feature, "*determining a head positioning profile for the first track in relation to the track profile for the first track and a track profile for a second track in response to said comparison.*" Support for this amendment includes the previously presented language of dependent claim 19, which has now been cancelled without prejudice. Dependent claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 18.

These amendments are believed to be proper, do not introduce new matter, and serve to place the application in proper condition for reconsideration and allowance.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 18-20 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. US2002/0027729 to Siew et al. ("Siew '729"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting previously presented claim 18, the Examiner read the recited "*track profile for a first track*" of claim 18 on the disclosed servo position error signal (PES) test that is applied to a selected track. See Siew '729, para [0034], lines 4-6 and FIG. 3, step 300. The Examiner further read the recited "*head positioning profile for the first track*" of claim 18 as the application of a zero acceleration path (ZAP) learning process to the

selected track. Para [0034], lines 6-9 and FIG. 3, step 314. See also 7/26/06 Office Action, page 2, lines 17-20.

While not necessarily agreeing with this characterization of Siew '729, the Applicant notes that Siew '729 fails to disclose a step of "determining a head positioning profile for the first track in relation to the track profile for the first track and a track profile for a second track in response to said comparison."

In rejecting dependent claim 19, the Examiner referred to para [0038] of Siew '729. See 7/26/06 Office Action, p. 32, lines 21-23. This section of Siew '729 generally discloses that after the ZAP learning process is applied to the selected track, the servo PES test is again applied and, if the selected track again fails the servo PES test, the track is thereafter skipped during subsequent operation. Para [0038], lines 1-5. Siew '729 then states, "The test can be repeated for each track on the disc drive, and the disc drive can be qualified based on the results of the PES tests (304, 316 and/or 322)." Para [0038], lines 5-7.

Nothing in this paragraph, or elsewhere in Siew '729, supports the conclusion that Siew '729 determines "a head positioning profile for the first track in relation to the track profile for the first track and a track profile for a second track" as claimed.

Rather, it is clear that the ZAP learning process of Siew '729 is only performed for a given in relation to a track profile for that track. If the ZAP learning process is applied to another track, the process is only performed in relation to a track profile for that other track. Nowhere does Siew '729 disclose, teach or suggest to carry out the ZAP learning process to a first track in relation to a track profile for that first track and a track profile for a second track.

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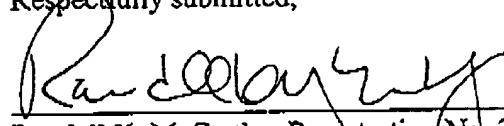
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18, and for the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

This Response is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed July 26, 2006. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application. Should any questions arise concerning this Response, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the below signed attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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